

A History of the Indians.

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The odor is somewhat like that of tar, though not very much so. 317
 They stir the water violently then let it settle and become clear.
 The more the pool is stirred the more abundantly does the oil
 flow. When it is clear they scoop it into kettles, and, as it is
 impossible to avoid getting some water, boil it and preserve it
 for use. They use it as a medicine in all sorts of cases for ex-
 ternal application, thus for tooth-ache, head-ache, swelling, rheu- [278]
 matism, strained joints. Some also take it internally and it ap-
 pears to have hurt no one in this way. Some, indeed, declare
 that the oil flows from the coal deposits, but this is not likely,
 for in the first place, there is no sign of pit coal to be seen in
 this region—one sees nothing more than poor sandstone and,
 in the second place, in other parts where there is much pit coal,
 as for example, along the Muskingum, no sign of oil is to be
 seen. Were the oil to be found there, the Indians would know
 of it, for they value it highly and have looked for it, but found
 none. Most probably it comes out of the earth. It is brownish
 in color and may be used in lamps, for it burns well.

Salt springs are to be found both along the Muskingum and 317
 along the Ohio. Of this salt the Indians make little use; they 263
 prefer to buy it from the whites, even though they have to pay
 a high price for it owing to the fact that it has to be brought
 a considerable distance from the seaports. Moreover, they use
 very little salt and seem not to require it. They often eat their
 food unsalted, even though they may have the salt, until they feel
 a longing for it.

These salt springs are usually to be found on the bank of 317
 a creek or even in the middle of the creek on a sand-bank, the
 fresh water flowing on both sides. The Indians have on occa-
 sion boiled a considerable quantity of salt in a short time at
 such a well, so that it would appear worth the labor to get it,
 especially as it is so expensive.

There are, also, many salt licks to which cattle, horses
 and game go in large numbers. These are generally springs
 that have salt or saltpetre¹²⁷ in them.

The common sort of stones in this region along the Ohio 135
 are the sandstones. Some are very hard, others soft. They
 are [i.e., crude oil. -Analyst]

- 135 are, for the most part, of a gray, fine sand and make as good whetstones as one might wish. Rocks you meet occasionally along the Ohio, but away from the river and here along the Muskingum very few, even most of, the mountains and hills are not rocky.

Pit-coal is found in abundance, but as there is no lack of wood it is little used and hardly thought of by the Indians. In Pittsburg the coal is used in fire-places and by blacksmiths.

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[276] A kind of stone, black in color, is found here, that is easily worked and cut. It has no sand in its composition and the Indians make tobacco pipes of it, some doing very neat work.

There is also a kind of stone, blue in color, which is very hard. It somewhat resembles the limestone of Pensilvanien, but examination has shown it to be different. Limestone has not yet been found in this region.

A mineralogist would find many more varieties to describe, to which I am unable to give even the names, especially along the shores of the river, where all kinds may be seen, green, yellow, blue, red and black. About ore I know little or nothing concerning this region. The Indians believed themselves to have found gold and silver, but what they produced as precious ore, because it resembled this somewhat, on the test and examination of whites was found to be sulphurous substance.¹²⁸ Whatever glitters, the Indians are apt to look upon at once as being gold or silver.

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[439] The Cherokees, who through the years have had much intercourse with the Delawares, brought with them many tobacco pipes for trade. These they made of quite white stone, probably white marble.¹²⁹ When completed they blackened the pipes and in such a way that they retained their color. These pipes are made so neatly that they are no heavier than the European pipes.

[213] From the Mississippi the Indians bring red marble, whenever they come from that direction. Of this pipes are also made. Such pipes, however, are as a rule to be seen only in the possession of chiefs or captains, for not many of them are to be had. A pipe of this sort is generally used in council or on solemn occasions. This is carried about by the chief counsellor, each

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one present draws a few whiffs of smoke and this is called smoking the peace-pipe.

There are four kinds of clay. There is the white, which is almost like chalk and with which, when dry, one can write as with chalk.¹⁴⁰ Another variety is quite black. This, however, becomes quite white when burned. Besides these, gray and yellow clays are found. A sort of yellow earth, rather of an orange tinge is found, of which the Indians, especially the warriors, make a fine color by burning.¹⁴¹ With this they paint themselves and they are particularly careful that the head shall be always red. It is not too much for the Wiondats to come here to Tuscarawi, a distance of at least a hundred miles, to supply themselves with this red coloring matter.

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Concerning plants and roots of medicinal virtue, it would be possible, if one were to devote himself to inquiry, to secure a great deal of information from the Indians, for what one of these does not know another does, each man and woman having some knowledge in this direction, some more, some less. Hence, the custom that a patient who has consulted an Indian and secured a medicine from him without, however, being benefited, will go immediately to another; if no relief is obtained through his advice, the patient goes to a third, a fourth until he finds one whose medicine helps. For many ailments they have very good remedies, e. g., for rheumatism. In respect to this affliction I have witnessed instances where they have effected a thorough cure and not only once or twice. At times they can secure desired results with only two or three kinds of roots, at other times more are required. If a simple remedy does not afford relief, they may use twenty or more kinds of roots. Even in such cases I know of cures having been effected. In treating rheumatism, bathing and sweating play a great part.

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They have remedies even for fevers. When a patient has been given a dose, they are generally able to tell from its workings whether he will recover or die. If he does not retain the medicine, this is regarded as a sign that he will hardly recover. I have paid some attention to this and like cases of treatment and found that the Indians have generally been correct in their